## GUIDE TO THE RY4 KORYAK FILE

[The RY4 file is concerned with the Koryak people and the modern Koryak National Okrug. The Reindeer Koryak call themselves the Chavchuven and the Coastal Koryak call themselves Nymylan, which is also another name for the Koryak people as a whole. The Koryak National Okrug covers the northern part of Kamchatka peninsula and the adjacent area of the mainland of northeastern Siberia between 56° - 65° north latitude and 158° - 174° east longitude. The Koryak language belongs to the northeastern Paleo-Asiatic family and is closely related to Chuckchee and Kamchadal. In 1926 there were 7434 Koryaks, 55% of whom were nomadic and 45% were settled. The Koryak were divided into nine geographical and dialectical groups but the most significant cultural distinction was between the nomadic reindeer-breeders and the settled coastal people. The major economic activities of the latter were sea animal hunting and fishing. In addition, there were some Koryaks who practiced mixed economies. The nomadic reindeer-breeders live in tents called yaranga. There were usually 3-4 tents, made up of related families, in an encampment. The sedentary coastal people lived in semi-subterranean dwellings in somewhat more populous settlements. The Koryaks were contacted by the Russians in the late 17th century. The Soviet regime was established in 1917. Since then many development programs have been initiated, including the sedentarization of the nomads on collective farms, and the establishment of more nucleated settlements.

There are six sources in the Koryak file, two of which are translations from Russian. 1: Jochelson is a lengthy descriptive ethnography dealing with both the Reindeer and Maritime Koryak. It covers religion, myths, material

culture and social organization, and also discusses the hypothetical relationships between the northeastern Siberian people, the people of the North Pacific, and the Eskimo. 17: Antropova is a cultural summary and is recommended for a brief overview of the culture. 31: Debets is on physical anthropology. The remaining sources are early reports of travelers and natural scientists and are somewhat brief and superficial. The file focuses on the period 1865-1900, with 23: Krasheninnikov being considerably earlier and 17: Antropova giving brief data on the Koryak under the Soviet regime. The researcher should note the group being discussed, whether Reindeer or Maritime, since there are many differences between the two. The RY4 file is generally not a good file for comparative purposes due to the variations in temporal and spatial focus. The file was processed between 1952 and 1968.]